

GEOGRAPHY

When pupils arrive at Whytrig, it is expected that most of them will have reasonably detailed and accurate images of their home, street and Seaton Delaval; somewhat less accurate images of the North East; and much less accurate images of other countries. We aim to value these images and build upon them, beginning in Year 5 with a detailed study of the school and our local area; the North East and Britain in Years 6 and 7 and eventually examining an area of Brazil in Year 8.

These places are used as the context for geographical studies of rivers, weather and climate, rainforests, environments, populations and industries, as well as the development of various skills such as measuring techniques and map reading.

The topics are coherently planned to enable pupils to return to ideas and skills, and we aim to engage the children in real questions, issues and problems so that their studies are as relevant as possible to their lives. The learning is active - mentally as well as physically, uses as many field trip opportunities as is suitable and above all, aims to be positive and fun.

In Year 7 Geography your child will learn about:

- **Map Skills** (symbols, grid references, contour lines, calculating heights and distances, directions using compass points and scales).
- **The Middle East** (Middle East countries, the build up to war in Iraq, how Geography has an impact on war, the build up to war in Afghanistan).
- **Antarctica** (location, climate, how animals adapt, exploration equipment required, why people explore the Antarctic, conflicts of interest, impact of tourism, climate change, the future).

In Year 8 Geography your child will learn about:

- **Kenya** (location, physical features, human features, population, urbanisation, development).
- **Russia** (location, physical features, human features, population, urbanisation, development).
- **Coasts** (waves, landforms of erosion, depositional landforms, coastal flooding, coastal conflict, hard engineering, soft engineering).
- **Rivers** (hydrological cycle, drainage basins, rivers and valleys, upper middle and lower stages, flooding).

HISTORY

History begins with the pupils at Whytrig Middle School. 'Where do I come from?' is a significant and important initial question in History. It shows a desire to search for and establish a sense of belonging. Through moral, social and intellectual training, children can gain a sound understanding of the long and difficult process by which civilisation has come to be what it is.

Studying past struggles for progress transmits cultural heritage and fosters a sense of belonging to the local community, the region and the nation. Children can enjoy stories of adventure, mystery, travel, villainy, saints and sinners.

They will be encouraged to learn through examining evidence, pictures and artefacts, participating in field trips and visits and through empathy, role play and dramatic presentation.

Children will discuss opinions, justifications and beliefs. They will reason on cause and effect, changes and motives. History at Whytrig Middle School takes the children on a journey through time where they will visit the pyramids in Egypt and the tipis of the wild west; meet Julius Caesar in Rome and the one eyed Cyclops in Greece; feel the drama of the Battle of Hastings and the Spanish Armada and explore the castles and history of our region.

In all of these, they will study their place in the local area, the country, Europe and the world.

History after all is an essential part of what makes us human!

In Year 7 History your child will learn about:

- The Romans.
- The Norman Invasion.
- The Norman Conquest.
- Religious beliefs and crusades.
- The struggle between Church and Crown.
- Ordinary life, The Black Death and The Peasants Revolt.